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TITLE: PVAMU/XULA/BCM Summer Prostate Cancer Research Program

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14. ABSTRACT The goal of the project is to provide summer research experiences in prostate cancer and a series of ancillary activities to 6 students with the goal of interesting them in careers in prostate cancer and to prepare them for graduate school/medical and subsequent careers in prostate cancer. We successfully recruited three students from PVAMU and 3 from XULA for the summer research program. Students participated in research experiences, seminars, workshops, and supplementary activities. Outgoing interviews confirmed that the program was a valuable experience for the students and that the students would recommend the program to other students.					
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1. INTRODUCTION. This project builds on and extends an 8-year partnership between Prairie View A & M University (PVAMU) and Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) through adding Xavier University of Louisiana (XULA) as an HBCU partner. Our goal is to encourage and begin to prepare undergraduates to enter careers in prostate cancer research. This project will provide a 9-week summer mentored prostate cancer research experience at BCM for a total of 6 undergraduates/year from PVAMU and XULA.

Students will work at the forefront of research, often using high tech equipment typically not available to undergraduates. Participants attend weekly research discussion group/seminars focused on prostate cancer, which will provide opportunities to become better acquainted with prostate cancer researchers from Ph.D. students to faculty as well as various areas of prostate cancer research. They will make PowerPoint presentations and submit critiqued written summaries (abstracts) of their work at the end of the program. Most prepare posters to present at research conferences. The participants will be co-registered in the SMART summer undergraduate research program at BCM. This program includes unique daily interdisciplinary seminar series, career development activities like GRE Prep and graduate school application workshops and career counseling.

2. KEYWORDS: HBCU, students, training, research, seminars

3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Major goals and accomplishments

Major Task 1 Advertising and Recruiting. At PVAMU, Dr. Regisford advertised the program and arranged for Drs. Weigel and Dr. Slaughter to present the program to interested students and to answer questions about the program. She also assisted the students in preparing applications. Dr. Payton-Stewart and Dr. Thomas advertised the program at XULA, prepared announcements and hosted Drs. Weigel and Slaughter during their visit. Drs. Weigel and Slaughter spoke to interested students.

Major Task 2 Screening applicants/acceptance/ and assignment to labs. Drs. Regisford and Payton-Stewart spoke to candidate students at their institutions and provided feedback to BCM. Drs. Weigel and Slaughter reviewed the candidates and picked the most promising candidates from the two schools. Dr. Weigel surveyed candidate mentors and matched mentors with the candidates.

Major Task 3 Summer program. Each of the six students participated in a 9 week research program. All participated in the specialized prostate cancer seminars and many, if not all, of the noon seminar programs. Several took the GRE Prep course and the supplementary training specifically for students in this program. Some found it extremely valuable. Others, who were more oriented to medical school were less interested. Students also participated in other activities including a welcome social to meet other prostate cancer faculty beyond their mentors and met with peer mentors who helped them in adjusting to BCM and answered questions about research and graduate school. The students found this to be a very useful aspect of the program. All students wrote abstracts, prepared and gave oral presentations on their work. Dr. Weigel conducted exit surveys and final evaluations were collected from mentors. The students were very positive about the program. All had very positive experiences in the laboratories and found the seminars and other programs useful. Some were interested in additional social activities, while others were not.

Major Task 4 Extended mentoring. Students have discussed their experiences with their HBCU advisors both by email and in person. As planned this task was initiated subsequent to the completion of the summer program. Trainees contact mentors for preparation of posters for local and national presentations. Drs Slaughter and Weigel will be visiting PVAMU and XULA in October and November respectively both to meet with former trainees and to recruit students for the 2017 program year. Some of the trainees will be presenting their BCM work at local research days and at ABRCAMS.

Opportunities for training and development. This is a training grant, so there were many opportunities for training and development. All students participated in mentored research programs, general seminar programs, prostate cancer seminar programs, most in a GRE prep course and all prepared and presented research presentations.

Dissemination of results: /A

Plans for the next reporting period. We plan to follow the statement of work with minor adjustments such as the timing of GRE workshops to encourage higher participation.

4. IMPACT:

Principal discipline(s) 6 students were introduced to prostate cancer research and related areas of research

Other disciplines: N/A

Technology transfer: N/A

Impact on Society: Students will bring their expertise in prostate cancer back to their schools and communities.

5. CHANGES/PROBLEMS: No significant problems, so no significant changes are planned.

6. PRODUCTS: N/A

7. Participants and other collaborating organizations

Nancy Weigel, PI, no change. No change in other listed personnel and nobody contributed a full month of effort.

Active other support: PI no changes

Partner organizations: PVAMU and XULA, no change